

QA-47

circa 1830-50

Jesse Merchant Farm
Crumpton vicinity
Private

The original section of the frame house on the Merchant Farm is a small, 1 1/2 story dwelling with a side passage, single parlor plan and a gambrel roof. Constructed in the second quarter of the 19th century, this house is typical of a form that gained considerable popularity in this region. The interior is quite plain, but the original stair and most of the architrave trim have survived. An early frame wing has been demolished, and later additions have obscured much of the early fabric of this building.

Of equal importance to the dwelling house is a small frame building to the rear. Constructed in the late 19th century, this simple L plan structure is a rare surviving example of a sweet potato storehouse. These buildings were evidently quite common by the turn of the century in this area, but few have survived. In contrast to the Wilson Potato House nearby (QA-295), this building is quite small and was intended for domestic use only.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Jesse Merchant Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side Maryland Route 290

CITY, TOWN

Crumpton

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Anthony J. Buttner

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Box 56 A

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21668

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 39

Folio #: 524

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-47

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Merchant Farm is located on the west side of Maryland Route 290, 1/4 mile north of U.S. Route 301 and three miles south of Crumpton.

The early frame house on the Merchant Farm was constructed in two principal periods and in more recent years was enlarged considerably by a series of one story additions to the south and west. Of equal interest to the house is a small potato store house dating to the late 19th century. A detailed description of this building is included at the end of this form.

The original house is of frame construction, 1 1/2 stories high, three bays wide and one room deep, with a gambrel roof. An original flush brick chimney has been removed from the south gable wall. This original dwelling, constructed in the second quarter of the 19th century, was enlarged in the late 19th century by a two story frame addition projecting from the north gable wall. Low, 20th century one story additions have covered much of the rear and south walls of the early house.

The front facade of the gambrel section faces east toward Route 290. The door is located in

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

the north bay with two 6/6 windows to the south on the first floor and three 6/6 shed dormers on the second story. The original siding has been covered with brick-pattern, asphalt roll tarpaper. The north gable wall is completely concealed by the later two story addition. On the south gable wall, the flush brick chimney has been removed and a single 6/6 window installed in the upper gable. The first story of the rear facade has been covered by a 20th century addition, leaving three 6/6 shed roof dormers on the second story. The original rear door survives, now opening into the rear addition.

The interior consists of a side passage, single parlor plan, with the stair passage to the north. The stair rises against the north gable wall to a landing at the west end of the passage. It is an open-string stair with turned newels, square balusters and a plain rail. The stair ends are decorated with plain scrolled brackets; the area below the carriage is enclosed with a single large triangular panel with flattened Greek ogee panel molds. A door under the stair landing opens into a small closet. The front and rear doors in the stair passage and the interior door to the parlor are trimmed with beaded architraves and ovolo backbands. An original door in the south gable wall opened into a small frame wing that was demolished in this century.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

A later door was cut into the north gable wall of the stair passage when the existing two story addition was built.

The first floor plan is repeated on the second floor but with an original unheated passage chamber at the east end of the stair passage. A seam in the floor of the larger south chamber marks the location of the demolished chimney. Original architrave trim survives throughout the second floor. It is identical to the first floor trim. There is no access to the roof.

Potato Storehouse

Located to the southwest of the original house, this small frame building has been incorporated into the rear addition. Constructed as a storehouse for sweet potatoes, the building evidently dates to the late 19th century.

The storehouse has an L-plan below a pitched gable oriented on a northeast-southwest axis. The southeast slope of the roof is carried down over the small L, which serves as a covered entrance to a small cellar. A brick chimney is centered on the southwest gable wall. The only openings are a door in the southeast facade opening into the first story and a door on the northeast wall opening onto the cellar stairs. The building

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

is of frame construction on a continuous brick foundation and is covered with wood shingle siding. The cellar does not extend the full length of the building and the floor level is raised up above the cellar to allow additional head room. It is not clear why the building is laid out in this manner and little evidence survives to explain how the building was used.

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| 400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| 1500-1599 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original section of the frame house on the Merchant Farm is a small, 1 1/2 story dwelling with a side passage, single parlor plan and a gambrel roof. Constructed in the second quarter of the 19th century, this house is typical of a form that gained considerable popularity in this region. The interior is quite plain, but the original stair and most of the architrave trim has survived. An early frame wing has been demolished, and later additions have obscured much of the early fabric of this building.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wilson Potato House nearby (QA-295), this building is quite small and was intended for domestic use only.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

QA-47

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

10/5/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-25; Recorded June, 1981.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438





QA-47

Jessie Merchant Farm
Crumpton vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Front facade from northeast



QA-47

Jessie Merchant Farm
Crumpton vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1981
Rear view with potato house